

# Waterbury Democrat

Established 1881

Published Every Evening Except Sundays and Holidays by  
THE WATERBURY DEMOCRAT, INC.  
Democrat Building, Waterbury, Conn.

Subscription Rates, Payable in Advance  
One Year .....\$9.00 One Month.....75c  
Six Months .....\$4.50 One Week .....15c

Member of Audit Bureau of Circulation

The Democrat will not return manuscript sent in for publication unless accompanied by postage. No attention paid anonymous communications.

DIAL 4-2121  
All Departments

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1934

## A Thought for Today

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.—St. Matthew, 24:13.

Great effects come of industry and perseverance; for audacity doth almost blind and mangle the weaker sort of minds.—Bacon.

## Our Efforts Are Still Puny

That great sea disaster of early Saturday morning must have convinced many a person of the inscrutable wisdom of the Almighty. It should also serve as a lesson to those of us who boast about the efficiency of mankind and his ability to conquer all obstacles. Although the burned Ward liner, the Morro Castle, was believed to be almost a perfect example of fool-proof ship it fell an easy prey to fire. As a result hundreds of lives were lost at sea.

Death in this particular instance surely did enter like a thief in the night. It was a splendid lesson to those who believe in a final reckoning that they should keep their slates in good order and be ready at all times to meet their Maker. There were other moral lessons to be drawn from the holocaust, but outstanding naturally was the suddenness and lack of preparation that the unfortunate passengers and crew of the stricken liner had to contend with and which brought about their deaths instantly.

We presume formal inquiries into the tragedy will produce evidence that someone or something was at fault. The early report that lightning had struck an oil tank and exploded it is now discounted. The general belief is that the fire started from within the ship, perhaps even in one of the luxurious salons in which passengers made merry despite the recent death of the captain of the ship. That the elaborate and vaunted fire-fighting apparatus of the boat failed to operate certainly cannot escape the attention of the probers.

There we have it. A magnificent liner complete in every respect, one that had bested the worst gales and hurricanes the old Atlantic coast could produce burns within sight of shore and a few hours out of the home port. What trivial creatures we now appear those of us who claim that man-to-day is supreme in his field. In the twinkling of an eye that claim is blasted and the age old truth appears. No finer lesson could be drawn from this misfortune than that of humility, belief in a Creator, and a consciousness that man must at all times be prepared to come face to face with this Creator and give a strict accounting of his life.

## Some Change Demanded

Motor Vehicle Commissioner Michael D. Connor is recognizing the fact that something must be done about automobile insurance laws. The average motorist will tell you that something ought to be done about automobile insurance. While rates differ in various cities, right here in Waterbury they are of the extreme type. That is not due to discrimination on the part of the insurance companies, as many believe. It is caused by several circumstances.

One of them happens to be the high rate of claims paid in this district. It more than outweighs the fact that the death rate by motor accidents is not as high here as in other sections of the state or country where lower rates prevail. All of which is not supposed to be a defense of automobile insurance or the present rates. We find as much fault with the high charges and regard them as excessive just as much as the next man, but we do recognize the fact that they are computed on certain statistics and these can't lie.

Commissioner Connor says, "The State should require some assurance from the driver of his responsibility for whatever damage he does to life, limb, and property. . . . That's quite true. We've always been an upholder of this theory. It's not right for men or women to operate cars on the highway endangering the lives or property or others without expecting to offer some recompense. Yet how often does it happen that notes the victims of an accident compare notes one will be without insurance and also the means of paying for any damages.

Commissioner Connor proposes a type of compulsory insurance to be administered as the workmen's compensation act is today. To this end a commission will be asked of the next Legislature to study the question. It would be composed of a justice of the Supreme Court, the Insurance Commissioner, and the Motor Vehicle Commissioner. The plan will also be presented to the Legislature for its consideration. It should be given very close study. Some protection is needed.

## This Week Decides It

Whether or not the republican state central committee will abide by its early announcement and let the convention this week proceed to debate the nomination of a gubernatorial candidate remains to be seen. There are many who don't seem to think that State Chairman J. Henry

Roraback is going to play quite as passive a part in the proceedings as he said he would some weeks ago. However, the outlook right now is for a session that has no parallel in g.o.p. annals.

There are a number of avowed candidates for the gubernatorial nomination. State's Attorney Hugh M. Alcorn may be said to lead the group. But it is a question whether in actual delegates to the convention he leads. After the recent republican primaries it was pretty apparent that the strength of Lieutenant-Governor Roy C. Wilcox of Meriden had been greatly underestimated. He emerged with more delegates than any other professed candidate or potential one.

Former State Senator Albert E. Lavery, now head of the State Chamber of Commerce, is a popular candidate, but it's a question whether even his great popularity is going to make him a choice of the delegates. The same could be said for former Lieutenant-Governor Clifford B. Wilson. We could name off a dozen more candidates in the making who, if the convention really believes it is going to select its own hand-picked ticket, would have as much chance as the next man. It ought to be pretty obvious by this time that such a state of affairs won't exist. There will be plenty of guidance from behind the scenes.

## Second Gear Hills

An automobile company is conducting a survey of all the hills in the United States. The new, main highways have almost all been engineered so beautifully that a car can go up or down any hill in high gear, but there are still a good many bad hills on the secondary roads and the company proposes to find out all about them.

It asks every distributor and dealer: "Is there any hill road in your territory that has not, to the knowledge of local authorities, been climbed by an automobile with the transmission in high gear throughout the climb? If there is such a hill, give the name, location, gradient, length, type and condition of surface, number and character of turns."

Not only will road map conveying this information be very useful, but such a survey may lead, after a while, to lower taxes on gas. When road-building has reached the point where all the roads in the countryside are high gear hills, surely the long-suffering gas-taxpayer may be given a chance to catch his breath.

The resignation of Mrs. Fannie Dixon Welch as national committeewoman did not provide any talk at the state convention in Groton last week to speak of. It had been predicted that there might be some sort of a flareup. We don't possibly see how the thing could have worked out any differently than it did. It would have been extremely foolish for Mrs. Welch to have endeavored to keep her political post while holding her federal job. Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau seems to be determined to enforce this law in his department. There was only one course of action. It was taken and that's all there is to it, so far as we can see. There are several candidates for her position. Naturally Waterbury is interested in Mrs. Nora Mahaney Harris, a native of this city now living in New Haven. Mrs. Harris is vice-chairman of the state central committee.

Polish residents of the state are planning a great gathering for October 13, which will be observed as Pulaski Day. This brings back to the writer's memory the fight that has been waged in two past legislative sessions of the Connecticut General Assembly over the creation of an official Pulaski Day. Twice bills have been asked calling for a gubernatorial proclamation of October 13 as Pulaski Day with proper display of flags. Twice it has been denied, and in our estimation, for no good reason. Maybe 1935 will see a change in this sentiment.

They are paying the Mississippi River with asphalt blocks to keep it in its bed where it belongs. Now if they could only dam the fault which gives California her earthquakes.

"How's business?" queries an alert, optimistic editorial writer. We dunno, brother. First we heard there was any.

## So They Say

If the states acquiesce in the increasing encroachments of the federal government upon state sovereignty, there soon will be no state rights—and perhaps no states.—Patrick O'Brien, attorney general of Michigan.

Prohibition is coming quicker than any of us think, and when it comes it will be stronger than ever.—Dr. F. Scott McBride, Anti-Saloon League chief.

The time has passed when it is up to the farmers to play Santa Claus to the industrial world.—Chester C. Davis, AAA administrator.

Why did I marry a burglar? Well, I had my choice of wedding an attorney or a burglar, so I took the burglar.—Anna Price, Whitesburg, Ky., on witness stand at husband's trial.

## Selected Poem

AFTER RAIN

(D. S. Fairchild.)

The running silver darkness goes  
With busy sound of dropping rain  
And wet leaves, silver in the gentle wind.  
Beyond the hill a lightning flash,  
Starts thunder crashing down the sky.  
Daisies gleam across the pastures,  
And the white burns glitter clean.  
White clean fences stalk beside the fields.  
Then the sunshine flames again.  
The dark lawn jingles all its raindrops,  
And the birds sing clear.

## DAILY ALMANAC

High tide at Milford, Tuesday, September 11, 1:00 p. m., daylight time; low tide, 7:17 p. m., daylight time.

All vehicles must be lighted not later than 7:41, daylight time tonight.

Sun rises 6:26 a. m., daylight time; set 7:11 p. m., daylight time.

Moon sets 7:36 p. m., daylight time.

## A Couple Of Candidates For Old Age Pensions?



## Daily Washington Merry-Go-Round

Authors of "Washington Merry-Go-Round" and "More Merry-Go-Round"

Roosevelt and Douglas At Outs Since Budget Director "Went Over His Head"; Conservative Aide Wrote Congressmen to Reject President's Relief Measure; American Liberty League Now Seeks Him As "Star Recruit" For Organization; Sir Basil Zaharoff, Munitions Super-Salesman, Is Europe's Real Mystery Man.

Washington, Sept. 10.—Already the board of strategy of the American Liberty League is reported angling for ex-Budget Director Lew Douglas for its list of star recruits.

And judging by private factors behind Lew's sudden exit from New Deal, he will join up.

His rift with the President goes back many months—back to a secret and carefully guarded incident during the closing days of the last session.

Without consulting Douglas, Roosevelt sent to Congress a bill calling for an additional \$1,500,000,000 for PWA and unemployment relief.

A die-hard "budget balancer," Douglas took it upon himself to go over the President's head, and in personal letters to Senator Carter Glass and Representative James P. Buchanan, chairman of the Senate and House Appropriations committees, he vigorously challenged these additional expenditures. In effect he urged that the measure be rejected.

This was exactly the way Glass felt. And he was all set to publish the letter when Senator Jimmy Byrnes, Roosevelt's Congressional liaison man, got wind of what was up.

Byrnes realized that if Douglas' letter saw the light of day it would create a tremendous furore.

Working fast and desperately he persuaded Glass to allow him to say the matter before the President. And Roosevelt, when apprised of Douglas' letter, was furious.

He was for dismissing his Budget Director immediately. But Byrnes, with his eye on the political situation, advised precipitate action. He persuaded the President to call in Douglas, and get him to withdraw the letter.

Douglas bowed to White House pressure. But from then on he was "all washed up" with the President.

CABOTS, LODGES, ROOSEVELTS  
Harvard soon will have as many Roosevelt as it has scions of New England's famous families—the Cabots, the Lovells and the Lodges.

The fall there will be five. The two additions are John Roosevelt, youngest son of the President, and Kermit Roosevelt, Jr., grandson of Theodore Roosevelt.

With them in upper classes at Harvard are: Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr., another son of the President, called Europe's "Mystery Man"; a sophomore, Cornelius Van S. Roosevelt, son of Young Teddy, also a sophomore; Theodore Roosevelt 3rd, another son of Young Teddy, a junior.

Both boys are intelligent and hard workers.

Sir Basil Zaharoff, super-salesman of munitions whose name figures so prominently in the sale of U. S.-patented submarines to foreign countries, is not called Europe's "Mystery Man" for nothing. Everything about him has been subject for decades to conjecture, and he never gives an interview.

He is supposed to be an Anatolian Greek, who as a boy fled Constantinople, charged with larceny by a well-to-do uncle, and proved he was a partner in the firm and was freed. He drifted over Europe, was a failure at 27, and then got a job as salesman in Central and Eastern Europe for Nordenfeldt, a munitions maker with a small plant in England.

On a train journey he met a Spanish Duchess, 17 years old, unhappily married. They fell in love. More than a year later they were married. Meanwhile, she was said to have helped him get Spanish war orders, lay the foundation for fortune which he and Nordenfeldt, a munitions maker with a small plant in England.

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"That was in 1905. It is now 1925 and I have never seen him since. But this Christmas I received from him this box of cigars together with a check for \$4,500.

"He wrote that he had gone to New York, thence to South America, became president of a country which shall be nameless and could afford to repay me with interest."

MAIL BAG  
R. E. Camden, N. J.—The fact that Senator Hamilton F. Keen has pronounced conservative views is not the reason he is such an inconspicuous and inconsequential figure in the Senate.

T. O'R. Dayton, Ohio—The nation's total expenditure for unemployment relief, January 1, 1933, to June, 1934, was approximately \$1,340,000,000. This was exclusive of CWA which cost an additional \$500,000,000.

D. S. Wilmington, Del.—No alcoholic beverages of any kind are served in the lunchrooms of government departments. The House dining room sold beer last session, but he Senate's did not.

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## Press Comment

BUT NOT FOR PRESERVES  
(Hartford Times)

The total Connecticut peach crop this year is so small that the crop of a basket would be required to hold it. Doubtless mostly "Old Nixon's." Anyone who has producer as many as a half-dozen rushes the fact to the newspapers as an item of triumphant note.

Locally, old-time varieties appear to have pretty well vanished from the field, although the Emerald Gem retains a deserved popularity. These are small melons with sweet interior often becoming so soft that eating them is almost equivalent to "drinking" them.

But the Bender's Surprise is now the standard around Hartford, large, juicy, excellent, notwithstanding some have said that the reason for the "surprise" is because it is a surprise when one gets a good one. Most experience is against that humorous theory, if the melon be grown on suitable soil and was matured when picked. A gentleman on the South Glastonbury road (Main street) had one on his way-side stand the other day weighing 14 pounds.

Just why so many musk melons, or canteloupes, run so good to pink flesh, rather than green; just why the old Long Island Beauty or Boston Early Hackensack, or Cannon Ball, Jenny Lind, and humble original Netted Gem, as likewise, the Osage, have gone out of fashion with lapse of years, we do not profess to know. Main thing is, this is a great year for melons, has been so as far as a national experience, even to farther California where Persim Goleons are raised, African melons, Casabas and Honey Dew's.

However, people do not make preserves of many musk melons. The rinds of watermelons are used for sweet pickle; not those of Bender's Surprise. Who was this man Bender, anyhow?

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## Questions And Answers

The Democrat's Washington Information Bureau

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

You can get an answer to any unanswerable question of fact or information by writing to Frederick B. Keeler, Editor, The Democrat's Washington Information Bureau, 1322 New York Avenue, Washington, D. C., enclosing THREE cents in coin or postage stamps for reply. Do not use postal cards, National and legal advice cannot be given nor can extended research be made. All other questions will receive a personal reply. Letters without name or address cannot be answered. All letters are confidential. You are cordially invited to make use of this free service as often as you please.

THE EDITOR

Q. Name the satellites that are nearest to and farthest from Saturn.  
A. The nearest is Mimas and the farthest is Phoebe.

Q. Where is the Kiel Canal?  
A. It joins the Baltic and North Seas; was opened in 1891; is 61 miles long and cost \$6,000,000.

Q. Who founded Oxford University in England?  
A. King Albert of England.

Q. Since when have the Popes of the Roman Catholic Church been continually Italians?  
A. Since 1591 when Innocent IX (Faccinatti) ascended the throne.

Q. What is the population of Sweden?  
A. Approximately 6,190,364.

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A. Off the coast of Africa.

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A. Gallant Fox.

Q. What is the time difference between New York City and Lisbon, Portugal?  
A. When it is 12 o'clock noon in New York City it is 5 o'clock p. m. in Lisbon.

Q. What is naprapathy?  
A. The practice of treatment of disease, as to injuries to nerves, etc.

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A. Thomas Nast, cartoonist created the donkey in 1870 and the elephant in 1875.

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